



Roadside Litter

Decomposition Chart for litter*

(Source: California Waste Mgmt Bulletin)

Banana/orange Peel	2-5 weeks
Cotton rag	1-5 months
Cigarette butt	1-5 years
Wool clothing	1-5 years
Plastic-coated paper	5 years
Plastic bag	10-20 years
Painted wooden stake	13 years
Plastic film container	20-30 years
Nylon fabric	30-40 years
Leather	up to 50 years
Rubber boot sole	50-80 years
Aluminum can	200-500 years
Plastic 6-pack cover	450 years
Glass bottle	1 million years
Others: (various sources)	
Traffic Ticket	2-4 weeks
Rope	3-14 months
Bamboo pole	1-3 years
Tin can	100 years
Newspaper	3-6 months
Carry-out food bag	4-8 months
Napkins	1-3 weeks
Plastic beverage containers	100 years
Carry-out tray	3-9 months

* Decomposition depends on weather and site conditions: warm, wet conditions enhance decomposition, as does exposure to sunlight and oxygen. Material sheltered from weather and sunlight requires increased time to decompose.